



Town of Hopkinton

Office of Select Board

330 Main Street, Hopkinton NH 03229-2627 - (603) 746-3170 - www.hopkinton-nh.gov

**SELECT BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
MASK ORDINANCE
Thursday, May 6, 2021
6:00 PM**

Approved May 24, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sabrina Dunlap called this Public Hearing-Mask Ordinance to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021, via Zoom. Chair Dunlap introduced the members of the Board.

Select Board

Members Present: Sabrina Dunlap, Ken Traum, Steven Whitley, Anna Wells and Jeffrey Donohoe, through video conference.

Staff Present: Neal Cass, Town Administrator, and Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant, through video conference.

Public Present: Kevin Connally, Gail & Tom, 100, S. Adams, Teddy Rosenbluth, Greg Sagris, Rene Robillard, Elizabeth Sides, Sarah Mattson Dustin, Nick Casolaro, Florence Dapice, Mollie Petruccelli, Scott & Patti Smith, Emily Bouchard, Julie Voisin, 1-603-767-2013, Bob LaPree, Rebecca Whitley, Erin Vanden Borre and Emily White, through video conference.

DECLARATION OF CHAIR: Chair Dunlap read the Right to Know Law Meeting Checklist as follows:

As Chair of the Hopkinton Select Board, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means.

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through

the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-646-558-8656 and meeting ID: 377 225 532, or by clicking on the following website address: <https://zoom.us/j/377225532>.

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.

We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting using Zoom, and instructions are provided on Town of Hopkinton's website: www.hopkinton-nh.gov and on the Town of Hopkinton's Facebook page.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.

If anyone has a problem, call (603) 746-8242 or email: townadmin@hopkinton-nh.gov.

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote. Let us start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Roll Call for Select Board

Sabrina Dunlap and I am alone
Ken Traum and I am alone
Steven Whitley and I am alone
Anna Wells and I am alone
Jeffrey Donohoe and I am alone

EXPLANATION OF ZOOM:

There are several things about Zoom that will be helpful to know:

- This meeting is being recorded and will be available to watch at a later time. The link to watch will be on the Town website.
- The Select Board is unmuted, but all others are muted. If you have a question during the meeting use the chat feature to let the hosts know you have a question. The chat only goes to the hosts so off-line conversation cannot take place.
- During Public Forum, the line will be unmuted to allow participants to speak. Please be respectful of each other as we try to manage this.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

PUBLIC HEARING MASK ORDINANCE:

Chair Dunlap stated that her position on masks has not changed. She stated that we received twenty eight (28) e-mails, twenty-four (24) in favor of the ordinance, three (3) opposed to the ordinance and one (1) that was neutral. She further noted that if the Town had passed its own ordinance before, she would not be in favor of rescinding it. She noted that vaccinations are working, but we still need to be vigilant. Chair Dunlap noted that the original ordinance that the Board drafted, was sent to counsel for review.

Discussion ensued with regards to an end date and if it should be tied to some other matrix.

Mrs. Wells stated that masks should be worn until vaccine levels hit 70%. She stated her position on masks has not changed, noting that we may be past the worst of it, but we are not out of the woods yet. She noted that children under the age of 16 are next to be approved for the vaccine.

Mr. Whitely stated that he appreciates all the e-mails and comments that the Board has received. He noted that the proposal for a town mask ordinance is narrowly tailored to our needs. He stated that he likes the idea of an end date, but also thinks it needs to be tied to another goal, although information is not always available.

Mr. Traum stated he is in favor of the changes made by town counsel except for an open ended date. He stated that changes make it a better document.

Mr. Donohoe stated he believes it should not be opened ended and suggested a July 1, 2021 date which has been discussed previously. Mr. Donohoe questioned whether Mr. Cass, who is the Health Officer, if he ever stated his position about the ordinance publicly, as the ordinance states. Discussion ensued, with regards to removing that line.

At 6:22 pm, Chair Dunlap opened the floor for comments from the public:

Rene Robillard, 576 Putney Hill Rd: Mr. Robillard stated he is not in favor of a Town Mask Ordinance. He noted that we are in Merrimack County, but Hopkinton is a small part of that. He believes an end date of July is excessive and we should not be overriding what is done at the State level. He further noted that the Select Board are not parents.

Elizabeth Sides, 265 Crowell Road: Ms. Sides stated that she is in favor of the mask ordinance. She stated that the Town voted on the Select Board members to represent us and they have done so, successfully. She stated that public health is important. She noted that children are not yet vaccinated. Ms. Sides stated that wearing masks helps protect those that have not yet been vaccinated. She further stated it should not be a big deal to wear masks at businesses and stores. She thanked the Board for all the work that they have done.

Rene and Steven Adams, 691 Kearsarge Ave: Mrs. Adams stated the Governor's Order to end the mask mandate did allow for towns and businesses to make their own decisions about masks. She noted that Colonial Village is a tight store, and she is concerned about children not yet vaccinated. She further stated that as adults, we protect our kids. Respecting those that work in the public, by wearing a mask, should not be hard to do. She noted she is in support of the ordinance.

Bob LaPree, 25 Highland Ave: Mr. LaPree stated the issue is public health. We should continue to wear masks, so it will not spread and to protect others. He noted that he has seen people not wearing masks.

Kevin Connally, 1221 Briar Hill Road. Mr. Connally noted that he was unclear about removing the Health Officer statement from the document. Chair Dunlap stated that Mr. Cass is the Health Officer but is not here tonight to verify. Mr. Connally noted that Mr. Cass should be on the record stating one way or the other. Mr. Connally also questioned enforcement, stating if we can't enforce it, what is the point. Mr. Connally also feels that the age of 3 is too young. Chair Dunlap noted that the age of 3 was used because there are 3 year old children at Harold Martin School for pre-school. Chair Dunlap also stated enforcement is not the point, the point is to establish a norm of putting on masks.

Mrs. Wells stated that Mr. Cass was involved in the creating the document and making the changes that counsel recommended.

As there were no further comments from the public, Chair Dunlap closed the floor for public comment.

Discussion ensued, with regards to leaving the sentence referring to the Health Officer. Chair Dunlap texted Mr. Cass and he responded that he was involved in the creation of the document; and is in support of the ordinance.

Discussion ensued, with regards to an ending date. The Board agreed with until July 1, 2020 or if rescinded, whichever is sooner.

Mr. Traum made a motion to approve the Mask Ordinance as revised. Mr. Whitley seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Sabrina Dunlap	Yes
Ken Traum	Yes
Steven Whitley	Yes
Anna Wells	Yes
Jeffrey S. Donohoe	No

Mr. Whitley made a motion to authorize Sabrina Dunlap to sign the Ordinance. Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Sabrina Dunlap	Yes
Ken Traum	Yes
Steven Whitley	Yes
Anna Wells	Yes
Jeffrey S. Donohoe	Yes

Chair Dunlap stated that the motion passed, it will be signed and will go into effect tomorrow, Friday, May 7, 2021. She thanked everyone for their time and comments.

Mr. Traum made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Mrs. Wells seconded the motion.

Sabrina Dunlap	Yes
Ken Traum	Yes
Steven Whitley	Yes
Anna Wells	Yes
Jeffrey S. Donohoe	Yes

There be no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan
Administrative Assessing Assistant